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PLANNING GROUP FOR REPORTING AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS

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Transmission of Critical Intelligence
Presentation by Mr. [REDACTED] DD/I

On 21 July 1958 the Intelligence Community put into effect a new system for the transmission of critical intelligence to Washington. This system, known as the "Critic" System, was designed to make the maximum savings of time possible through the revision of reporting and handling procedures throughout the Intelligence Community without additions to communications facilities at this time. The result has been a substantial savings in time for those messages placed in the "Critic" System. The average elapsed time from the originator in the field to the Washington user, for "Critic" messages received so far, was [REDACTED] hours for a similar group of messages transmitted during October and November of 1957. (Fifty-nine per cent of the "Critic" messages were received [REDACTED] "Critic" messages have been received so far.

Under the "Critic" System intelligence reporters in the field have been furnished with a definition and description of the types of intelligence items which might affect situations requiring your immediate attention. Reports so identified are labeled "Critic" by the field reporter and transmitted to Washington at the highest precedence by the most rapid means available. In Washington they receive immediate simultaneous dissemination to all members of the Intelligence Community for immediate evaluation.

Information from all normal overt and clandestine intelligence reporting activities in the field may be reported in the "Critic" System. Provision has been made to introduce other critical intelligence derived from the processing of information into the "Critic" System whenever such information is identified at the Washington level.

There will undoubtedly be an additional small saving in time as operating personnel become more familiar with the system and as undetected procedural problems are discovered and eliminated. The only way of achieving considerable additional savings of time, however, is through the installation of new communications equipment. The communications authorities of the Joint Chiefs of Staff have assumed the responsibility for the procurement and installation of the proper automatic relay equipment. The installation of this automatic

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relay equipment should result in an additional substantial savings of time and should make it possible for "Critic" messages to reach the user in Washington within ten minutes in those cases in which such speed is essential. The equipment will require a fairly substantial expenditure of funds and will take two to three years for complete installation.

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